

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A lightweight two-part backing plate for a drum brake assembly, the backing plate including:

a shield plate for supporting and shielding components of a drum brake assembly, the shield plate having a thickness of 0.8 mm to 1.8 mm and being formed of a damped steel comprising:

a first and second steel layer, the thickness of the first and second steel layer being approximately equal, and

an intermediate layer located between the first and second layer, the intermediate layer being formed of viscoelastic polymer; and

an abutment plate attached to the shielding plate and located on an interior portion of the ~~drum brake assembly~~ shield plate, the abutment plate having a thickness of 3 mm to 6 mm and being configured to resist braking forces, the abutment plate comprising:

an upper portion that is generally square and includes a plurality of mounting features for mounting the abutment plate to an axle housing of a vehicle,

a lower portion having a shape generally corresponding to an anchor block of the drum brake assembly and configured to engage and resist braking forces from brake shoes, and

an intermediate portion located between the upper and lower portion, wherein the width of the intermediate portion or lower portion is less than the width of the upper portion,

wherein the combination of the shield plate and abutment plate reduce vibration of the drum brake assembly while providing sufficient resistant braking forces applied by the brake shoes.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 25, wherein the width of the intermediate portion and the lower portion is less than the width of the upper portion.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 26, wherein the width of the intermediate portion is less than the width of the lower portion.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 25, wherein the abutment plate includes one or more anchors for resisting movement of brake shoes of the drum brake assembly.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 25, wherein the abutment plate has a thickness of about 4 mm.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 29, wherein the shield plate has a thickness of about 1.2 mm.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The backing plate of claim 30, wherein the abutment plate includes sides having ~~the sides of the abutment plate include~~ a length of about 100 mm.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 25, wherein the abutment plate defines a mounting hole for receiving an antilock braking sensor.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 25, wherein the shield plate and the abutment plate are formed separately.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The backing plate of claim 25, wherein the shield plate is configured to support a hydraulic cylinder of the drum brake assembly.